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WELCOME

Welcome to our May issue of the Sunderland Digital Careers newsletter.

This month we are showcasing all things manufacturing - including careers, skills and opportunities. We've tried to fit it all in!

The region is home to some incredible manufacturing companies that cover a variety of sectors, such as mining, construction, pharmacy, medicine, and chemical production. There are lots to shout about, and we hope this newsletter gives you a little taste of what's happening and on offer in the region.

Manufacturing is adapting as new technology is being invented, and there are a lot more digital roles in the sector. We will take a look at how manufacturing is becoming more 'digital'.

We will also look at a career highlight - we like to highlight some careers you may not have thought about before to give you as much information as possible for when you leave school.

If you have any questions about the newsletter, please get in touch:

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MANUFACTURING HIGHLIGHTS IN THE REGION

The region truly excels in certain areas of manufacturing. The ones highlighted below account for 40% of the region's total manufacturing output!

Pharma Manufacturing

Pharmacy manufacturing regards the production of pharmaceutical drugs that are sold in stores and used in hospital or healthcare settings. It plays a big part in the regional economy, with both large global corporations and smaller SMEs choosing to base themselves here - like Rokshaw Laboratories, Thermofisher Scientific, and Velesco Pharma. This industry is constantly hiring new talent, so if you're thinking of pursuing a career in this area, opportunities will be rife!



Mining and Construction Manufacturing

Companies such as Komatsu and Caterpillar have a huge presence here in the North East. They are large global corporations that contribute a lot to the manufacturing industry up here, alongside other companies such as Hitachi. The demand for mining and construction equipment has skyrocketed over the past few years, so there are always work opportunities available.



Chemical Manufacturing

Teesside is the largest chemical complex in the UK, making it one of the 4 main areas for chemical manufacturing. This is largely due to its location close to a major pipeline. Work is always available in this industry so be sure to consider the array of opportunities when deciding on a career path.



WHAT KIND OF JOBS ARE THERE IN MANUFACTURING?

There are many different jobs in manufacturing. Some you may have even heard of before! Jobs include:

- Welder
- Assembler
- Manufacturing Technician
- Production Planner
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Paint Technician
- Team Leader
- Materials Planner
- CAD Technician
- Design Engineer



DID YOU KNOW...?

30% of UK passenger vehicles are manufactured in the region!

Teesside is home to the largest **chemical manufacturing complex** in the UK.

26% of all the electric vehicles in Europe are manufactured in the North East!



HOW IS MANUFACTURING BECOMING 'DIGITAL'?

Manufacturing now incorporates digital roles to make things smarter and more efficient. These roles involve using computers, software, and technology to design, simulate, and control the production process. For example, engineers use computer-aided design (CAD) software to create digital models of products. Robots and automation help with tasks like assembling and testing products. Data analysis and artificial intelligence (AI) are used to optimize processes and predict maintenance needs. Digital roles in manufacturing combine creativity, problem-solving, and technology to create better products faster and with fewer mistakes.

There are several digital job roles in manufacturing. Here are a few examples:

- Manufacturing Engineer
- Robotics Engineer
- Data Analyst
- Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Specialist
- Automation Technician
- Quality Assurance Specialist
- Supply Chain Analyst



CAREER HIGHLIGHT: INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS (IIOT) SPECIALIST

An Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Specialist is a person who works with smart devices and sensors in the manufacturing industry. They help connect machines, equipment, and systems to collect and analyse data. By doing so, they can improve efficiency, reduce downtime, and make processes safer.

To become an IIoT Specialist in the UK, you would typically need a combination of skills and qualifications. It's important to have good knowledge in computer science and programming. Some soft skills to be successful in a role like this include problem-solving, communication, adaptability, collaboration and attention to detail.

To pursue this career, you can consider studying computer science, electrical engineering, or a related field at university. You may also explore vocational courses or apprenticeships that focus on automation, IoT, or industrial control systems. Building practical experience through internships, personal projects, or participating in robotics or IoT competitions can further enhance your skills. Continuous learning and staying updated with emerging technologies are important aspects of this field.

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